

THE KEY ROLE TRANSFERRING KNOWLEDGE OF NUCLEAR ESPAÑA, THE SPANISH NUCLEAR SOCIETY MAGAZINE

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ABSTRACT

The magazine of the Spanish Nuclear Society (SNE), "Nuclear España" is a scientific-technical publication with almost thirty years of uninterrupted edition and more than 300 numbers published. Their pages approach technical subjects related to the nuclear energy, as well as the activities developed by the SNE, especially in national and international meetings.

The main part of the magazine is composed by articles written by known specialist of the energy industry. One of the top goals of the magazine is to help on transferring the knowledge from the generation that built the nuclear power plants in Spain and the new generation of professionals that have started its nuclear career in the last years. Each number is monographic, trying to cover as many aspects on an issue as it is possible, with collaborations from the companies, the research centers and universities that helps to have complementary points of view. On the other hand the articles help to deep in the issue's topic, broadening the view of the readers about the nuclear field and helping to share knowledge across the industry.

The news section of the Magazine picks up the actuality of the sector as a whole. The editorial section reflects the opinion of the SNE Governing Board and the Magazine Committee on the subjects of interest in this field. On the other hand, the monthly interview sets out the professional outstanding opinions.

With a total of eleven numbers per year, three of them have a noticeable international character: the one dedicated to the operative experiences on the Spanish and European nuclear power plants, the monographic issue devoted to the Annual Meeting of the SNE and the international issue, which covers the last activities of the Spanish industry in international projects. Both first are bilingual issues (Spanish-English), whereas the international edition is published completely in English.

Besides its diffusion through all the members of the SNE, the Magazine is distributed, in the national scope, to companies and organisms related to the nuclear power, universities, research centers, representatives of the Central, Autonomic and Local Administrations, mass media and communication professionals. It is also sent to the utilities and research centers in Europe, United States, South America and Asia.

1. Introduction

The magazine of the Spanish Nuclear Society (SNE), "Nuclear España" is a scientific-technical publication with almost thirty years of uninterrupted edition and more than 300 numbers published. Their pages cover technical subjects related to the nuclear energy, as well as the activities developed by the SNE, especially in national and international meetings.

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2. The Magazine History

The NUCLEAR ESPAÑA magazine is intimately linked to the development of the nuclear power in Spain, and it was born like an expression of the Spanish Nuclear Society, founded on 1974. To better understand the role played by *Nuclear España* in the Spanish society since the first issue published in July of 1982 to the present time, it is perhaps opportune to remember some historical data previous to its appearance.

The nuclear age began in Spain in 1951 with the creation in 1951 of the Spanish Nuclear Research Centre, JEN (today CIEMAT), and the construction, seven years later, of the first experimental reactor (3 MW) that was dedicated to the production of isotopes and education. In 1968 the first commercial nuclear power station starts up, Jose Cabrera (Zorita) (160 MWe) and the second, Santa Maria de Garoña (466 MWe), in 1971. This period was covered by the bimonthly magazine “Energía Nuclear”, published by the JEN.

Just at the time of the appearance of *Nuclear España*, the situation that lived the nuclear sector was difficult for several reasons, for example the campaign of attacks and murders undertaken by a terrorist group that forced to stop the construction of the Lemóniz nuclear power plant. In fact, number 1 of *Nuclear España* dedicated one double page to denounce this situation.



Figure 1. First number of Nuclear España in July 1982

On the other hand, the Spanish Government had interest for the fast start of operation of the second generation (GEN-II) of nuclear power plants which were under construction. This was due to the energy crisis that the world was going through, with a very expensive dollar and, therefore, very high petroleum cost.

Indeed a year before, in 1981, Almaraz 1, the first GEN-II nuclear power plant, started operation. In parallel, the other groups were under construction and they started up just a short time later. On the other hand, the Spanish Nuclear Society (SNE), founded on 1974, was looking for a mean that served to set out the works and the experiences of the professionals. Several attempts were raised, but they failed for the huge necessary dedication. At the end of 1981, the Society decided to address the project in a professional manner: a committee of members was constituted contracting the services of a publishing company for the edition work.

The magazine started at the beginning of 1982 with the first president of the Publications Commission, Rogelio de Haro, at the moment engaged in Westinghouse-Spain. The first steps were hard. It was necessary to define the format and the content of the magazine, to look for advertising support that finances the edition and to combine the interests of the publisher with those of the SNE.

Finally, thanks to the effort of the professionals who participated in the Committee and the commitment of Senda Ediciones, the publishing company selected for the edition work, the magazine was a success. After six months the first number was published. Later on, the priority was to give continuity to the magazine. Little people thought that it was going to follow ahead more than 300 numbers.

The present situation of the electrical sector is very different from the one from 1980. In those years it was a regulated sector very atomized, at the present time, the liberalization of the market has derived in a concentration of the sector companies and an important presence of foreign companies. Regarding the nuclear industry, as a result of this process of concentration of the electrical sector, the number of proprietary companies is handicapped considerably. Before 1982, the electrical sector was supporting strongly the nuclear energy. Nevertheless, after the moratorium, its position has evolved towards a more passive attitude, with no new nuclear projects in mind.

The first task that assumed the present Commission of Publications president, José Lopez Jiménez, a veteran from CIEMAT, was the renovation of the Commission with the incorporation of new members. It was a smooth transition, of the still pioneering ones, like Professor Luis Gutiérrez Jodra, Carolina Ahnert and others, to the new professionals of the nuclear sector, but maintaining a core of remarkable veterans like Luis Palacios. In so short period of time, important changes have undergone. At this moment, the Commission has thirteen members, and its basic mission is the planning and management of the NUCLEAR ESPAÑA magazine edition.



Figure 2. Two examples (year 1982 and 2006) of special monographic numbers on education & training

As an important milestone, in February of 2009 the SNE Governing Board presented the Strategic Plan in the society General Assembly outlining the action lines of the Society for the next years. In the Plan document it is remarked that the Magazine is “the essential organ of communication of the Society and one of his main assets”.

The mentioned Strategic Plan, that updates the mission and the objectives of the SNE, puts special accent in the communication and the Magazine. The constitution of the Communications Commission and the creation of the figure of the Society spokesman are two new features that have a direct relation with the Magazine.

Regarding this Plan, there are some actions that will allow to improve the Magazine capacities as vehicle of scientific and technological diffusion, proposing to extend its distribution in places like universities, companies, political parties, professional unions, schools, companies, Chambers of Commerce, associations, specialized magazines editorials, etc. This work of diffusion will be coordinated with the new Commission of Communication and the Society spokesman.

Some new features have been incorporated since the introduction of the Strategic Plan. The first one is the addition of the editorial article that will reflect the position of the SNE on current subjects and of the technical editorial that summarizes the content of the monographic number. Another new feature that the Magazine has incorporated recently is the new fixed section titled ‘the nuclear thing in the media’. This section tries to inform about the main news appeared in Spanish newspapers on power and nuclear topics.

Other subjects of special importance for the Magazine are the annual planning of the topics for the monographic issues, revision of articles and management of all the information that is lately included in the issue. In the last years, NUCLEAR ESPAÑA has published a great quantity of papers showing updated information about a variety of topics like new reactors, long term operation, the market and the energy costs, and many more.

To maintain the quality, the same in content than in edition, is a constant challenge that the Publication Commission faces. The primary target is to produce an attractive issue, taking into account the most recent developments in the nuclear sector and showing them in a way easy to understand for people not directly related with the mentioned topic. This is done also trying to maintain the standards of quality and rigor. Also the Publications Commission has the objective that that NUCLEAR ESPAÑA is delivered to the readers on time, requirement every day more demanded, but far from easy to obtain. For all this, the Publication Commission holds monthly meetings where the tasks are distributed. This includes the issues coordination, communications for the European and American Societies, search and selection of news about the nuclear companies and the Spanish institutions, etc.

The grant award is stimulating for members and collaborators, who see recognized their effort. Another task of the Commission is to choose the best article published during the year that is granted with the ‘Nuclear España Prize’. Also, there is an Honorary Mention to the issue distinguished by its technical quality.



Figure 3. Two special numbers for Nuclear España: number 300 and 36th Annual SNE Meeting at Santiago de Compostela

During 2010, the implantation of the Strategic Plan of the SNE, initiated the previous year has been continued. It is good to emphasize the inauguration of the new section “Nuclear people around the world” with four interviews to the Spanish nuclear professionals that work abroad: Luis Echávarri, Silvia Álamo, Santiago San Antonio and Carlos Alejandre; as well as the consolidation of the press report section “nuclear in the media” and the writing of two editorials in each number, one of general character reflecting the position of the SNE Governing Board, and the other, technical, regarding the subject of the monographic issue, signed by the Committee of Publications.

Among others new features, it is remarkable the offering of including articles of special meaning at the present time on subjects different from the monographic one, with special indication on the cover page. In addition, the logo of the cover and the subtitles has been modified, adopting the legend: “The magazine of the professionals of the nuclear sector”; and the previous name of this Publication Commission has been changed by the one of “Writing Commission of the Magazine”.

3. Conclusions

NUCLEAR ESPAÑA has maintained the beat of the nuclear activity in and outside Spain from its creation in July of 1982 to the present time. NUCLEAR ESPAÑA, next to the professional objectives, does a complementary mission that is not other than to spread the knowledge that allows its readers to think with scientific criteria about the future of the nuclear power in our country.

During each one of these years it has help to transfer the knowledge from a mature generation of technical people, which have built and operate the plants to the young people that have entered in the nuclear field.